

Application No.: 10/696241
Amendment dated: May 9, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 8, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(currently amended). A friction mating member comprising a base member and a hard coating applied on the base member, said coating having an outer surface, wherein the hard coating has a load point displacement characteristic in which the ratio of elastic deformation to maximum indentation depth, in a load range of 1 to 50 mN, is at least 50%, wherein semispherical protrusions, having diameters in the range of 1 to 5 μm , are formed on said outer surface of said hard coating, the ratio of the area occupied by said protrusions to the total area of said outer surface of said hard coating is at least 3%, the arithmetic average surface roughness R_a of said outer surface of said hard coating, excluding the semispherical protrusions, is in the range of 4 to 50 nm, and the arithmetic average surface roughness R_a of the base member is not greater than 0.07 μm .

2 - 4 (cancelled).

5(currently amended). A friction mating member according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said hard coating is in the range from 1 to 20 ~~mm~~ μm .

6 - 8(cancelled).

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9(original). A friction mating member according to claim 1, wherein the hard coating is formed of a composite material containing tungsten carbide and amorphous carbon.

10 - 12(cancelled).

13(original). A friction mating member according to claim 5, wherein the hard coating is formed of a composite material containing tungsten carbide and amorphous carbon.

14 - 16(cancelled).